



# Important Changes That May Affect Your Veterinary Practice

## TUBERCULOSIS

**California's Loss of Tuberculosis-Free Status** - California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has been notified that the Interim Rule downgrading California's bovine tuberculosis (TB) status from 'Accredited-Free' to 'Modified Accredited Advanced' will be published in the Federal Register on or near April 18, 2003. The status change will be effective upon publication of the Interim Rule. Publication will also open a formal comment period on bovine TB in California. **When completing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), check the Tuberculosis box for "Modified Accredited" and write "Advanced" next to it.**

This new status requires all California breeding cattle to have official identification and a negative TB test within 60 days of interstate movement OR originate from a TB Accredited-Free herd (mandatory annual TB testing) OR move directly to slaughter. **Breeding dairy and beef cattle 6 months of age and older require a negative TB test, unless the receiving state has more restrictive requirements. There are no exemptions for exhibition cattle moving interstate.**

Record the official identification on the TB test record for each animal tested to move interstate. Promptly report animals with any skin response to the test - the confirmatory test must be done within 10 days of the initial injection, and the herd cannot move until the final classification has been made. Send completed TB test records to your Animal Health Branch district office.

The CDFA and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have worked closely with the cattle industry and neighboring states to minimize the impacts of this downgrade to beef producers. **The USDA has agreed to waive the identification and TB testing requirements on feeder cattle moving in slaughter channels at this time.**

A special pasture-to-pasture permit has been developed for breeding beef cattle moving interstate. **It requires breeding beef cattle 24 months of age and older to be TB tested within 12 months of application for the permit, and subsequently tested every 3 years to continue to move annually while California is less than TB-Free.** Producers are required to submit a copy of their TB test records when applying for this permit. Turn-around time for pasture agreements may be 30 days. **Include the reason for testing as "Pasture-to-Pasture Movement" on the TB test record. Cattle 24 months of age or older are identified by their central incisors "up and in wear".**

**TB-Infected Dairies** - The first TB-infected herd was depopulated in November 2002, and the second TB-infected herd was depopulated during late March 2003. Funds are being sought to depopulate the third infected herd. As of March 30, 2003, over 231,000 cattle in 155 herds have been tested for TB and about 13,000 animals depopulated since May 2002.

**TB Testing for Fairs** - Some fair committees have adopted TB testing requirements for certain cattle. These exhibition cattle need documentation of a negative TB test within the current 2003 fair season or documentation of a negative whole herd TB test of the herd of origin of the animal within 12 months before the fair.

**California's TB Program to Change** - CDFA and the USDA have been working closely with the cattle industry to enhance the current bovine TB control and eradication program. Proposed changes include:

- Testing all dairy herds in Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties, at government expense;
- Requiring a negative TB test before importing dairy cattle into California;
- Restricting Mexican origin cattle to pastures that prevent them from commingling with US cattle;
- Enhancing surveillance for TB at all California slaughter plants.

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## SCRAPIE

**New Scrapie Requirements** - New rules have been developed for the control and eradication of scrapie. **A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) is now required for the interstate movement of sexually intact sheep and goats except:**

- Sheep and goats moving directly to slaughter, through slaughter channels to slaughter, or to a feedlot to enhance their condition for slaughter;
- Sheep and goats moving for grazing without change of ownership;
- Low-risk commercial breeding goats - those not exposed to scrapie or to any sheep (unless low risk commercial sheep);
- Low-risk commercial sheep (commercial whiteface, whiteface cross, or commercial hair sheep with no exposure to female blackface sheep or history of scrapie) which require a veterinary and an owner statement instead of a CVI:
  - o **Accredited veterinarian written statement** within 12 months of the date of movement: *"To the best of my knowledge, the flock has no known risk factors for or exposure to scrapie. I have inspected the flock and it does not contain any: animal exhibiting signs of scrapie, female blackfaced sheep or female blackfaced cross sheep that were not born in the flock."* Include the owner's name, address, and the official ear tags, official tattoos, or premises identification number.
  - o **Owner statement** within 30 days of the date of movement: *"The animals were born in the flock and the flock does not contain any animal showing signs of scrapie. To the best of my knowledge, the flock has no risk factors for or exposure to scrapie, and the flock has never contained any animal diagnosed as having scrapie, any female blackfaced sheep or any female blackface cross sheep that were not born in the flock."*

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Some destination states require a CVI for additional classes of animals. The CVI must include:

- Individual animal identification number(s) or the flock of origin's premises identification number;
- The number of animals covered by the CVI;
- The purpose of the movement;
- The points of origin and destination;
- The consignor and consignee;
- A signed "**Veterinary Certification**" statement that the animals have no signs of contagious or infectious diseases;
- **An owner statement:** *"The animal is not scrapie-positive, suspect, high-risk or exposed and did not originate in an infected, source, exposed, or noncompliant flock."*
  - o Market veterinarians may make this statement on behalf of the owner if the market has:
    - sellers sign such a statement, or
    - notified sellers that any animal for which this statement cannot be made are made known to the market.
  - o Only sexually intact female animals that are genetically susceptible or of unknown genotype that originated from a flock with an exposed status are considered from an exposed flock.
  - o Animals are not considered scrapie-exposed if they have been redesignated low-risk exposed animals, genetically resistant exposed sheep, or unrestricted genetically less susceptible exposed sheep.

**Official Identification - official eartags, official tattoos, or premises identification numbers - now required when sheep and goats change ownership, except:**

- Lambs and kids less than 18 months of age in slaughter channels that have not lambed, kidded, aborted, or are pregnant;
- Low risk goats;
- Castrated animals less than 18 months of age that are not for exhibition.

**Sheep and goats for exhibition must have official identification that must be kept on the animals.**

You may obtain official tags from the USDA/APHIS/VS office at (916) 857-6170. **If you apply official ID, you must retain records on those animals for 5 years**, including the date you identified the animals and the identification numbers applied, such that animals may be traced back to their flock/herd of origin.

**Remember, scrapie is a reportable disease.**

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### OVINE BRUCELLOSIS

Rams 6 months of age or older now require an official *Brucella ovis* negative test within 30 days before entry into California, unless they are from a *Brucella ovis* free flock or moving for grazing purposes without change of ownership.

### BOVINE TRICHOMONOSIS

#### **New Bovine Trichomonosis Control Program -**

Regulations for California's trichomonosis control program are scheduled to become effective on or near July 12, 2003. **Trichomonosis is a reportable disease and must be reported within 2 days of diagnosis.** The basic components of this new program are:

- Mandatory training to standardize trichomonosis sampling;
- Mandatory training for laboratories diagnosing trichomonosis;
- Quarantine infected cattle until slaughter;
- Bulls more than 18 months of age need a negative test to enter CA, with exemptions for exhibition bulls, pasture movements, artificial insemination bulls, and bulls moving directly to slaughter;
- Bulls entering CA from affected herds need three negative tests;
- Bulls more than 20 months of age sold as "negative" at California saleyards need an "official negative" test;
- Public saleyards need to post a warning sign about the risks of trichomonosis from untested bulls.

**Trichomonosis Laboratory Training -** A free workshop is scheduled for May 19, 2003 at California Animal Health & Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory, Davis, 1:00–3:00 p.m., W. Health Sciences Drive, Maddy A Conference Room, University of California, Davis. The training will cover:

- Specimen quality criteria,
- Approved methods for culturing trichomonosis,
- Submitting isolates for confirmatory testing,
- Confirmatory methods to identify isolates.

Pre-registration is required - call (530) 752-8700. This training is also available at the CAHFS-Tulare laboratory - call Dr. Blanchard at (559) 688-7543 for date and time.

**Trichomonosis Veterinarian Training -** Certification for collecting specimens for the bovine trichomonosis control program can be obtained by contacting the Animal Health Branch district office in your area.

**For more information, call:**

#### **CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices**

Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
TB Task Force	559-687-1158

#### **United States Department of Agriculture**

916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690